

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 8: Neighbors to Nations
Episode 4: Upon this Rock
November 12 & 15, 2026
Pastor Joby Martin

LEADER NOTES – The Neighbors to Nations Guide includes questions designed to help you and your group go deeper into Scripture and the sermon each week. Some of these questions will also be included in the weekly curriculum. Encourage your group members to review the questions and think through their answers before coming to group.

We've created a new way to invite/add a member to your group through an "Invite People" button at the top of your group page. Click here for a video tutorial.

Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less: Listen to ALL episodes for free on Spotify or Apple.

2026 Fall trimester: 8/17–12/7 2027 - Spring: 1/4 - 5/17 Summer: 6/7 - 7/26 Fall: 8/23 - 12/6

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Your Disciple Group can serve Seniors this Christmas! Join with our Senior Living Community Teams to host a Carols, Crafts and Cookies holiday program between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Email senioradults@coe22.com for more information and to sign up.

Serve as a group with Our Partners: Help assemble the Bibles we give away to individuals and organizations. Learn more.

Christmas Toy Drive for Foster Care: Your group can fulfill a child's wish list by partnering with Family Support Services of North Florida. Click here for more information.

All of our Holiday Serve opportunities with our Outreach partners are here: Keep following the page as it's updated between now and Christmas.

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: Download our app for Apple or Android. Click the "Daily" icon at the bottom of the app for our daily Bible reading plan.

Share Wins, Praises and Prayers: Where did you see God move this week?

Action Step Review: Last week's action step: *If you didn't do this during worship, text GO to 44-1122 and answer the question: What would you do for the glory of God if you knew it wouldn't fail? View how others have answered here.*

Memory Verse: *Matthew 16:24-25*

Sermon Text: *Psalm 62; Isaiah 53; Daniel 7:9–14; Matthew 16:13–28; Luke 12:16–21; Acts 11:24; Ephesians 2:19–20; Philippians 2:9–11; 1 Peter 2:6–8*

Discussion Questions

Leaders: Please use the questions in the curriculum to facilitate discussion of the sermon and the Scriptures. **But there's no need to answer *every* question.** The goal is to get your group members talking more than you and to get them going deeper. **The answers in parentheses** are simply possible responses.

- **Each week during the Neighbors to Nations series, we're providing a Disciple Group testimony video for you to watch with your group before diving into the curriculum questions. Click here to watch or download this week's video.**

- **Read Matthew 16:13-28. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**

- ***Discover:*** **Read Matthew 16:13 and Daniel 7:9-14. Jesus asks the disciples: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Discuss how you would explain to an unbeliever who Jesus is.** *(Jesus is the Messiah, God the Son, who came to save us from our sins. He's our LORD and Savior, not just a prophet or a good teacher. See John 3:16-17 and 14:6.)*
  Deepen: **Share how your understanding of who Jesus is has changed since you first began following Him.**

- **Read Matthew 16:17. Jesus told Peter that his understanding had been revealed to him by the Father. What does this teach us about God's role in bringing people to faith in Jesus?** *(God opens hearts and reveals the truth of the gospel. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word to bring people to repentance and faith. We are called to faithfully share the gospel and trust God with the results.)*

- **Discuss the rock Jesus said he would build his church on.** *(Jesus is the cornerstone and said He would build His church on the truth of the gospel. The church is a movement, not a building or an event we attend. We are a people called by God to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and advance His Kingdom. See Ephesians 2:19–22 and 1 Peter 2:6–8.)*

- **Peter goes from following Jesus to trying to lead Him away from His mission within a few verses. What are some warning signs that you've drifted from gospel-centered living into self-centered living?**

- **Read Matthew 16:19. Discuss what this verse means.** *(Jesus gives His church the responsibility to share the gospel, make disciples and faithfully represent His authority on earth.)*

- ***Discover:*** **Read Matthew 16:24–25. What does it mean to lose your life for Jesus?** *(We're called to put Jesus first instead of living for ourselves. Surrendering our desires, comfort, and plans to obey Him, even when it's difficult. We get to give up shame and guilt and sin, and we get joy, hope, love, grace, the abundant life and eternity with Him! "Dying to self is not the death of who you are, it is the death of who you were never meant to be. It is the sacred shedding of every false identity, every mask, every counterfeit version that life, sin, and pain tried to graft onto your soul. In Christ, you are not erased; you are revealed." – Unknown author.)*
  Deepen: **What does denying yourself and taking up your cross look like in everyday life?** *(Choosing obedience over personal desires, forgiving someone who has hurt us, resisting temptation, being generous, serving others sacrificially, sharing our faith and prioritizing God's Kingdom over our comfort. We don't do these things to earn salvation, but because Jesus saved us and is conforming us to His image. Jesus is Lord of all, or He's not Lord at all.)*

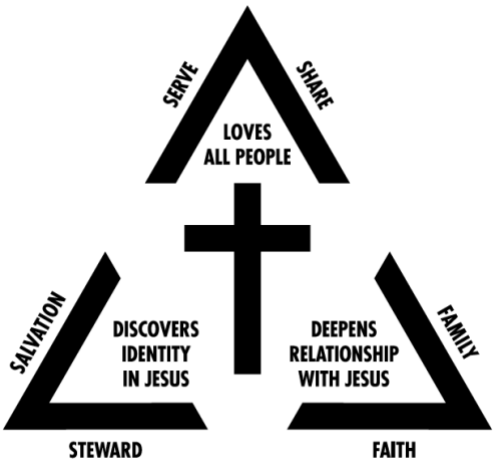
- **Discuss ways that you have grown in your faith which allow you to more readily submit and be conformed to the character and nature of Jesus – if you've seen someone in your group grow in their faith, point that out.**

Action Step: As you prepare for Commitment Weekend, ask God to show you your role in the Great Commission through your giving, growing and going. Then make one specific commitment that reflects your desire to spend your life on what matters for eternity.

Your Discipleship Journey

- **RightNow Media:** Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to coe22.com/rightnowmedia or text “RightNow” to 441122.

  (Note: You'll need to log in or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)



Go to coe22.com/growthtrack, scroll down to “What’s Growth Track?” and click the words, “Discipleship Triangle” to download or print a discipleship journey tool with questions for you to ask yourself and others. Please share the link and directions with others in your group.